ALL OF THE POWER. NONE OF THE RESPONSIBILITY

SCARLET SPIDER®

WALLY AYTON

DONALD MELAND

ANNABELLE ADAMS

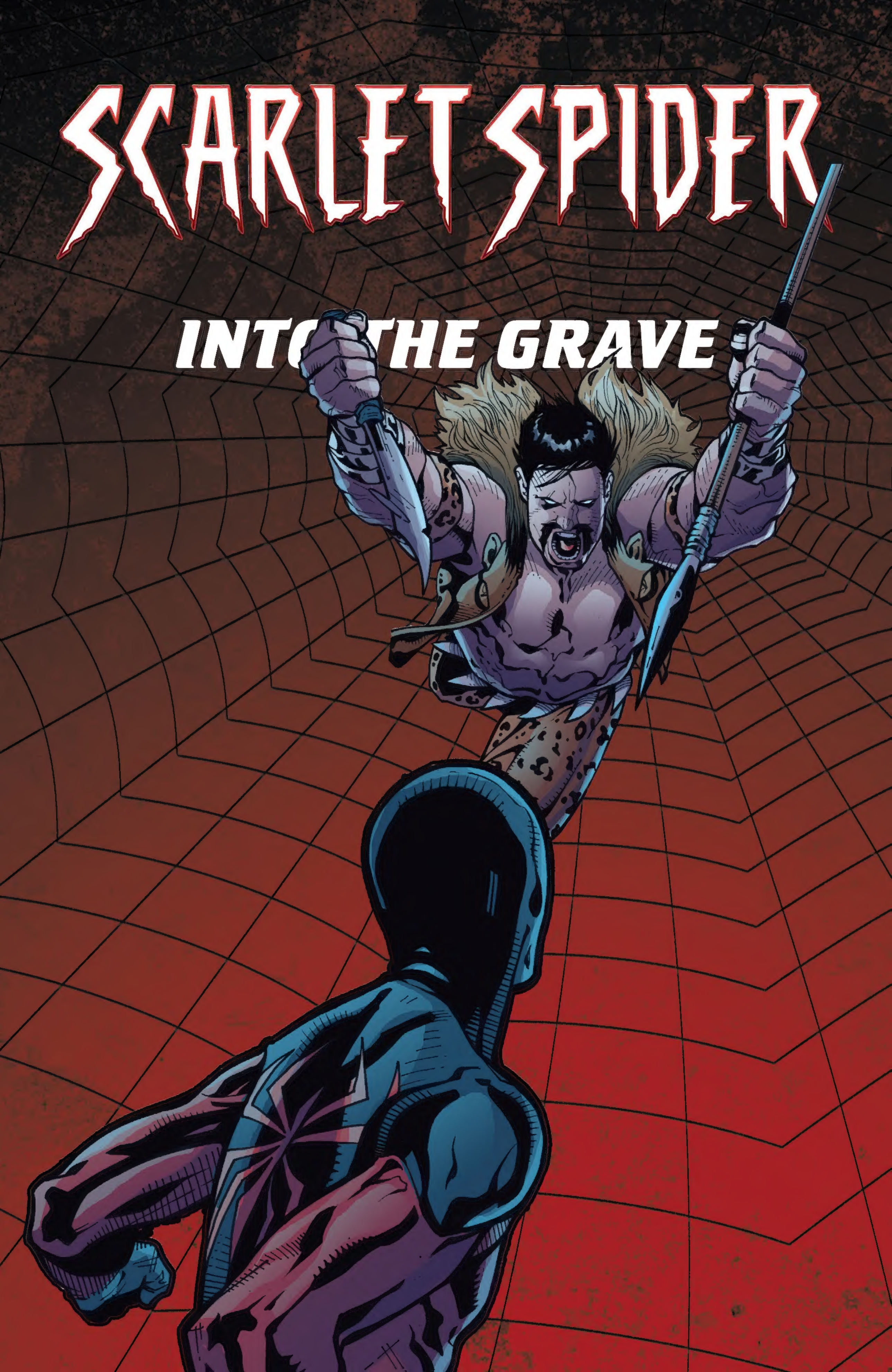
MARVEL

INTO THE GRAVE

YOST • BURNHAM • BALDEON • BARBERI

SCARLET SPIDER

INTO THE GRAVE



SCARLET SPIDER

WRITERS: ***CHRIS YOST*** WITH ***ERIK BURNHAM*** (#21-24)

ARTIST: ***DAVID BALDEON*** (#23-25)

PENCILERS: ***CARLO BARBERI & DAVID BALDEON*** (#21) and

DAVID BALDEON, PATRICK OLLIFFE & TIM GREEN II (#22)

INKERS: ***TERRY PALLOT & VICTOR OLAZABA*** (#21-22)

COLORISTS: ***CHRIS SOTOMAYOR*** WITH ***LEE LOUGHRIDGE*** (#22)

LETTERERS: ***VC'S JOE CARAMAGNA*** (#21-24) &

CHRIS ELIOPOULOS (#25)

COVER ARTISTS: ***RYAN STEGMAN*** & ***EDGAR DELGADO***

EDITOR: ***TOM BRENNAN***

SENIOR EDITOR: ***STEPHEN WACKER***

COLLECTION EDITOR:NELSON RIBEIRO
ASSISTANT EDITOR: ALEX STARBUCK
EDITORS, SPECIAL PROJECTS: JENNIFER GRÜNWALD & MARK D. BEAZLEY
SENIOR EDITOR, SPECIAL PROJECTS: JEFF YOUNGQUIST
SVP OF PRINT & DIGITAL PUBLISHING SALES: DAVID GABRIEL
DIGITAL PRODUCTION: MARTINA LO
DIGITAL PRODUCTION/MANAGER: TIM SMITH 3

EDITOR IN CHIEF: AXEL ALONSO
CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER: JOE QUESADA
PUBLISHER: DAN BUCKLEY
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: ALAN FINE

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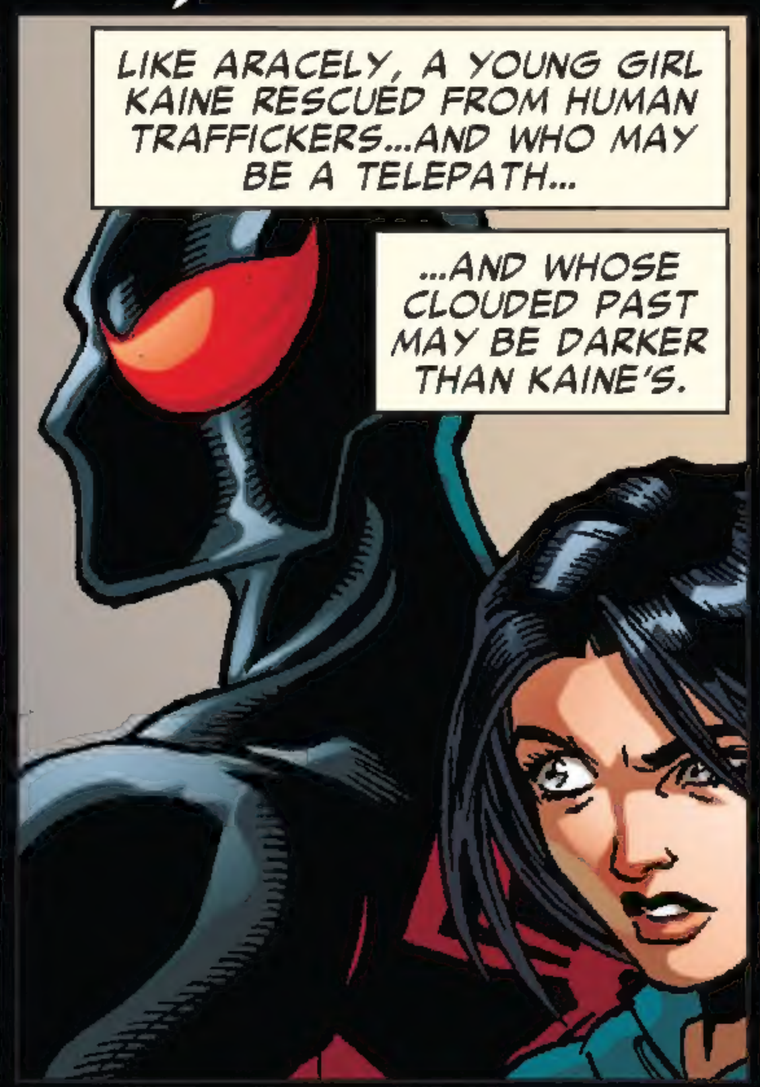
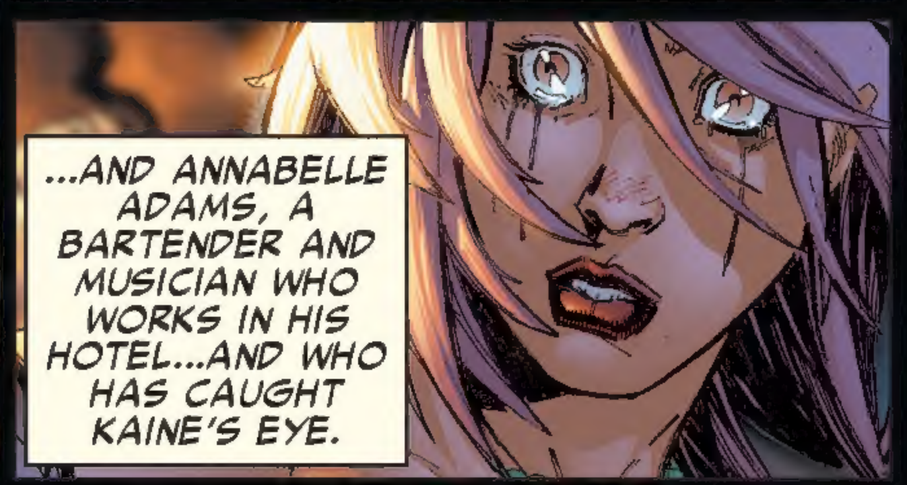
#21

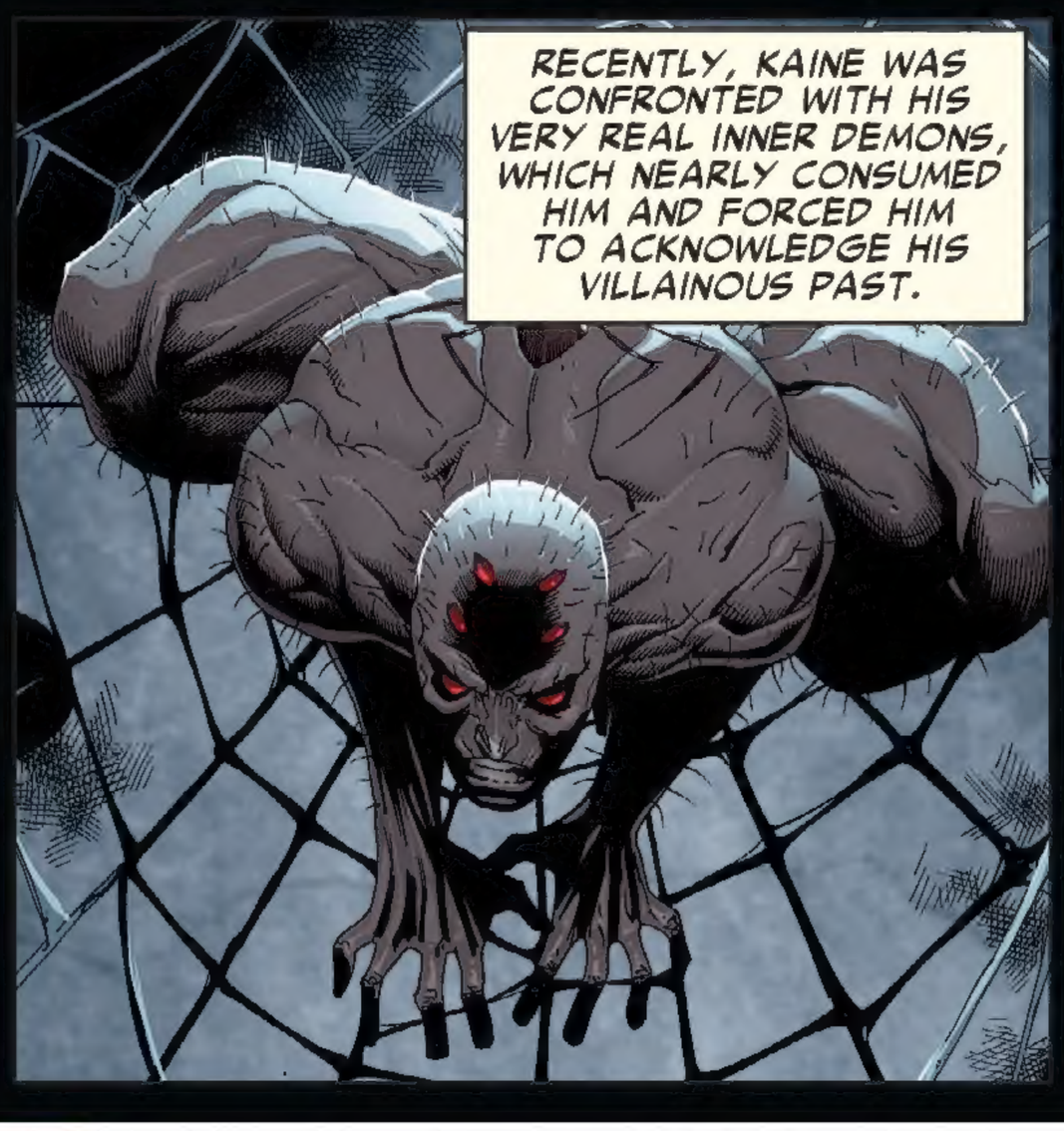
"INTO THE GRAVE, PART 1"

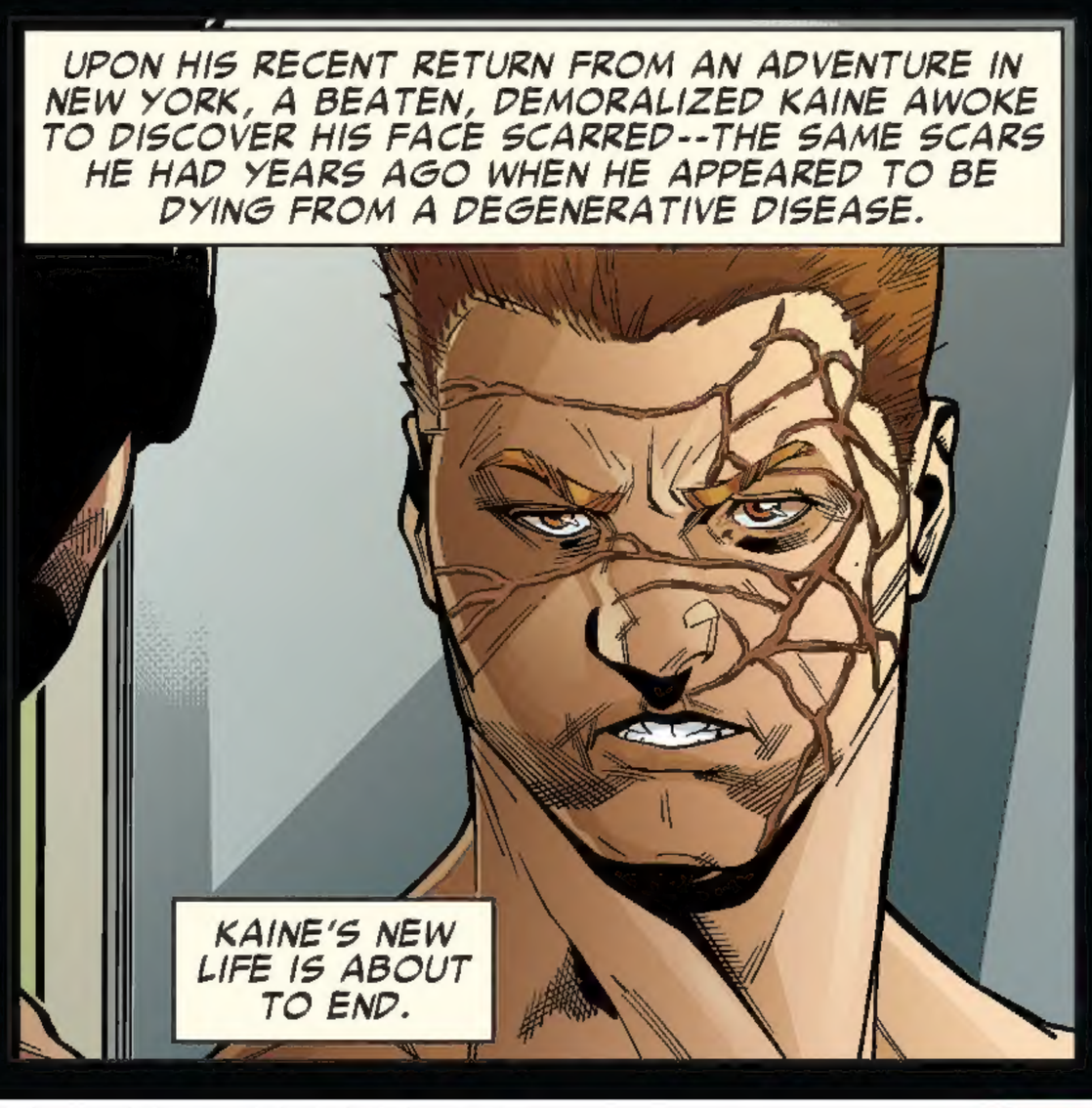
Kaine was a lab experiment gone wrong, a genetic clone of Peter Parker, the Amazing Spider-Man. Dying from the day he was created, Kaine lived a life of violence and villainy until Spider-Man cured him, giving him a second chance at life. Kaine now tries to live up to his legacy as the...

SCARLET SPIDER


LIKE ARACELY, A YOUNG GIRL KAINE RESCUED FROM HUMAN TRAFFICKERS...AND WHO MAY BE A TELEPATH...
...AND WHOSE CLOUDED PAST MAY BE DARKER THAN KAINE'S.




RECENTLY, KAINE WAS CONFRONTED WITH HIS VERY REAL INNER DEMONS, WHICH NEARLY CONSUMED HIM AND FORCED HIM TO ACKNOWLEDGE HIS VILLAINOUS PAST.


UPON HIS RECENT RETURN FROM AN ADVENTURE IN NEW YORK, A BEATEN, DEMORALIZED KAINE AWOKE TO DISCOVER HIS FACE SCARRED--THE SAME SCARS HE HAD YEARS AGO WHEN HE APPEARED TO BE DYING FROM A DEGENERATIVE DISEASE.
KAINE'S NEW LIFE IS ABOUT TO END.

KWASH!

BOOOM!

The Four Seasons Hotel.
HOUSTON, TEXAS.

--I SEE. WELL, ARE YOU SURE IT ISN'T THE *THUNDER?* THE STORMS CAN GET PRETTY--

NO, SIR, I'M NOT SUGGESTING YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT THUNDER SOUNDS LIKE. WE'LL SEND SOMEONE UP.

AND THANK YOU FOR--

=SIGH=

WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?

HIM AGAIN.

HIM WHO?

WHO DO YOU *THINK,* ANNABELLE?

"THE MAN IN THE PRESIDENTIAL SUITE."

KAINE! PLEASE! PLEASE, TELL ME WHAT'S WRONG? WHY ARE YOU *DOING* THIS?

SHE DOESN'T *GET* IT. SHE DOESN'T *UNDERSTAND.*

WHAT'S *WRONG?* ARE YOU *BLIND?*

LOOK AT MY *FACE!*

MY NAME IS KAINE. I'M A *CLONE.*

I USED TO SUFFER FROM A CELLULAR DEGENERATION... A FLAW IN THE CLONING PROCESS THAT WAS BASICALLY *UNMAKING* ME.

I THOUGHT I'D BEEN *CURED.*

I WAS *WRONG.*

I'M *DYING.*

AGAIN.

KAINE, I CAN *FEEL* HOW UPSET YOU ARE. JUST--

STAY BACK!

OH!

KAINE-- YOU DON'T HAVE TO--

SHE'S USING HER POWER... ENTERING MY MIND...

I WISH SHE HADN'T DONE THAT...

PREY!

AA!!EEEK!

NO NO NO NO NO NO NO...

I'M SORRY! ARACELY, I DIDN'T MEAN...

...THAT'S A CROWDED PLACE RIGHT NOW.

I'M NO GOOD.

I'M STILL JUST A MONSTER!

KNASH

MAYBE I COULD'VE *PRETENDED* TO BE SOMETHING ELSE BEFORE...BUT THAT'S DONE.

I'M DONE.

I'M SORRY, ARACELY.

THWIP

I DON'T EVEN MAKE IT TWO BLOCKS BEFORE THE GUILT KICKS IN. AN UNEXPECTED PIECE OF PETER PARKER, FLOATING TO THE SURFACE.

AND A SUDDEN HELL OF A HEADACHE, TOO.

THE DEGENERATION MUST BE...

...

NGH?!

BLACKED OUT?!

ROUGH LANDING, MR. SUPER HERO?

I AM NOT...

...A %!#@ SUPER HERO!

WHWAM

CHK-WHEEPWHEEP WHEEP

WELL...

THWAM!

...YOU'LL GET NO ARGUMENT FROM ME.

...BEN?

ND LANE
CARPOOLS
& 1 - 6PM
- FRI

1000
Smith

ONE WAY

Park Plaza Hospital.

I TAKE IT THE OPERATION WAS A SUCCESS, DR. MELAND?

EASIER THAN CRATE TRAINING A PUPPY, THAT'S FOR SURE.

I'LL TAKE YOUR WORD FOR IT, SIR. WHILE YOU WERE IN SURGERY YOU, AH, RECEIVED AN URGENT CALL FROM *ARACELY*...

URGENT, EH? WAS IT A NEW RESTAURANT, OR HAS SHE FINALLY FOUND OUT ABOUT *SIX FLAGS*?

I DON'T THINK IT WAS ANYTHING LIKE THAT, SIR. SHE SOUNDED *SCARED*.

SCARED? HM.

WOULD YOU GET WALLY ON THE PHONE FOR ME?

RIGHT AWAY, DOCTOR.

DR. MELAN

RING RING

HELLO? HELLO, WALLY, IT'S DON--

CHKBAK BZZ

PERFECT.

KSH

WHAT WAS THAT?

CALM DOWN, DONALD. YOU'RE HEARING THINGS. IT'S JUST A--

--STORM...

BEN... REILLY?!

YOU-- YOU'RE DEAD. PETER SAW YOU *DIE*.

HE *TOLD* ME.

WE SEE WHAT WE WANT TO SEE.

PETER HAD *HIS* LIFE BACK, SO I MADE A NEW ONE FOR MYSELF.

UNTIL I HEARD THE *STORIES*.

STORIES OF A *NEW* SPIDER-MAN. IN *HOUSTON*.

CALLING HIMSELF THE *SCARLET SPIDER!*

THWACK

HOW LONG DID YOU *TORMENT* ME? *TORTURE* ME?

AND NOW YOU THINK YOU CAN JUST BE A *HERO?*

THUD

YOU'RE A VILLAIN! A *MONSTER!*

AND YOU'RE USING MY NAME!

THRAM

NO! THIS ISN'T--I CAN'T...

I NEED TO THINK.

THWIP!

GET AWAY.

Montrose
ANNABELLE ADAMS APARTMENT

BRRRRING

UGH.

HELLO? ARACELY? NO, I WASN'T SLEEPING, I--

KAINE DID WHAT?

NO, NO HONEY, IT'S ALL RIGHT. JUST HANG ON, I'LL BE RIGHT THERE.

WHAT? NO! AAAAAHHH!

SO HARD TO THINK

GOTTA BE SHOCK FROM THE FALL. *GOTTA* BE YOU CAN'T TAKE A HEADER INTO THE PAVEMENT WITHOUT SCRAMBLING SOMETHING.

UNLESS MY *BRAIN'S* DEGENERATING.

MAYBE I'M GETTING DEMENTIA?

BECAUSE BEN REILLY CAN'T BE--

WHAT--?!

FWOM

YOU DON'T GET AWAY *THAT* EASILY, KAINE.

FWOM

NOT FROM ME.

NOT AFTER YOU'VE RUINED *EVERYTHING!*

I HAD FOUND MY *PEACE*, KAINE, WITH THE WORLD. WITH MY LIFE!

AND YOU TOOK IT FROM ME!

HE'S RIGHT.

I HUNTED HIM. TORMENTED HIM.

I'M--

I'M SORRY...

THWUD

IF I COULD TAKE EVERYTHING I DID TO YOU BACK, I *WOULD!*

I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT A REAL LIFE WAS LIKE-- I DIDN'T THINK WE EVEN *DESERVED* ONE! I WAS ANGRY, AND BROKEN, AND SO I...I DID... I WAS...

...I WAS A MONSTER.

AND I'VE BEEN TRYING TO MAKE UP FOR IT.

TRYING *DAMN* HARD TO LIVE UP TO THE EXAMPLE THAT YOU AND PETER SET.

AND THE BEN REILLY I REMEMBER WOULD APPRECIATE THAT. HE WOULD HAVE FORGIVEN ME... WHICH MAKES ME WONDER--

--WHO THE HELL ARE *YOU?*

IT'S--HIM.

SOMEONE WHO WOULD *NEVER* FORGIVE YOU.

OH, HELL.

The Layton/Meland Residence.

--LOOKS LIKE THE POWER'S OUT AT HOME TOO, DONALD...CAN'T WAIT TO SEE WHAT SURPRISES THE DOG LEFT.

LOOK, IF YOU GET THIS BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE, PICK UP SOME--

ARRR--

YIP!

WHAT?

YOU IN HERE, BUDDY?

BUDDY?! WHAT THE HELL?!

AW, BOY. I'M SO SORRY...

BUT WHEN I FIND WHO DID THIS--

KRA-KHOOM

EEEAAAARGH!

KWHAM

MY HEAD STILL FEELS LIKE HELL--

--IN NO SMALL PART TO THE WHOLE GETTING THE !%&# BEAT OUT OF ME FOR THE LAST HALF HOUR--

--BUT I'VE HAD A MOMENT OF CLARITY

I'VE *ALREADY* PAID MY PENANCE IN FULL WITH MY *LIFE*

I KNOW I'M GOING TO DIE AND *SOON*

AND I DON'T WANT OR NEED *ANY* HELP WITH THAT

ESPECIALLY

NOT

FROM

BEN

REILLY!

STAY DOWN. I DON'T WANT TO--

--KILL HIM.

I SHOULD, BUT...

WAIT, WHAT?

HE IS A THREAT. HE IS *PREY*. KILL HIM.

HE'S RIGHT, YOU KNOW. YOU SHOULD END REILLY HERE AND NOW.

HE'LL STEAL YOUR *LIFE*, LIKE HE TRIED TO STEAL MINE.

HE'LL TAKE YOUR IDENTITY, YOUR PURPOSE...HE'LL EVEN TAKE *ANNABELLE*, AND PROBABLY *MORE THAN ONCE*, IN HER CASE.

KILL HIM, KAINE. FOR *BOTH* OUR SAKES.

YES, KAINE! YOU WERE ALWAYS MY FAVORITE SON, DID YOU KNOW THAT? WELL, AT LEAST YOU HAD THE SENSE TO NOT FIGHT CRIME IN A SLEEVELESS *HOODIE*, BUT THAT'S NEITHER HERE NOR THERE.

KILL HIM, BOY!

KILL HIM!

NO!

IT'S NOT REAL, KAINE, IT'S NOT REAL, IT'S NOT REAL, IT'S NOT REAL...

PLEASE, FIGHT IT...

YOU CAN DO IT, KAINE...

FIGHT IT!

OH, NO...

...THE TIME TO FIGHT HAS NOT YET COME.

WHA--

WHSS

NNN--

...THE HUNT HAS ONLY JUST BEGUN.

MY HEAD IS *REALLY* SPLITTING NOW. CAN HARDLY THINK. FEEL LIKE I'M TRYING TO MOVE THROUGH QUICKSAND

KWAH

TOO *SLOW*, KAINE. YOU'RE A *FAILURE*. YOU CAN'T BEAT A *REAL* HERO.

YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN DEAD *LONG* AGO.

THUK

HE WAS RIGHT ABOUT ME BEING *SLOW*.

BUT I AM DEFINITELY GOING TO BEAT HIM.

NO. I'M GOING TO *KILL* HIM.

AND THEN, MAYBE, I'LL FINALLY BE ABLE TO...

REST

PTU

SHUK

I--

--I CAN'T DO IT

GOD, I FEEL SICK

YOU LOOK A LITTLE PALE, KAINE. I WONDER WHY?

HAD TO'VE BEEN--

SHLIK

HURRKKK

DRUGGED...

YOU TRULY *AREN'T* AS SMART AS PETER, ARE YOU? HE WOULD HAVE FIGURED THIS OUT *LONG* AGO.

MY FACE--

--IS FINE. VIVID HALLUCINATIONS ARE AN ENTERTAINING SIDE EFFECT OF THE DRUG.

"HOW? AIRPORT SECURITY DOES NOT LOOK FOR *BLOW DARTS.*"

BUT I HAVE TOYED WITH YOU ENOUGH, LITTLE SPIDER.

HOW...

KRAVEN

KRAVEN THE HUNTER.

KRA-CHOOM

THERE IS UNFINISHED BUSINESS BETWEEN US, KAINE.

ONE OF US MUST DIE.

COULDN'T AGREE MORE.

ALL OF THE POWER. NONE OF THE RESPONSIBILITY

SCARLET SPIDER

#22

"INTO THE GRAVE, PART 2"

THE PREY

The Houston Zoo.

I WAS HAVING A DREAM. IN THE DREAM, I WAS DEAD

ZOO

ENTRANCE

A STORM WAS COMING AND THERE WAS *NOTHING* I COULD DO TO STOP IT

THE SOUND OF THUNDER BECAME *ROARS*

THE ROARS REPLACED BY *DRUMS*

LION

AS I WOKE, THERE WAS THAT MOMENT... THE MOMENT WHEN YOU *REALIZE* YOU WERE DREAMING.

RELIEF WASHES OVER YOU. IT WASN'T *REAL*.

THIS WAS LIKE THE *OPPOSITE* OF THAT

PUTTING YOU IN THAT GRAVE SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN SO **EASY**, SCARLET SPIDER...I THINK PLAYING THE HERO HAS MADE YOU **WEAK**.

KRAVEN THE HUNTER HAS COME TO *HOUSTON*

I'M COVERED IN...OH GOD, I'M COVERED IN BLOOD

NOT MY BLOOD. WHAT--?

I HAVE STUDIED YOU, KAINE. I HAVE LEARNED EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU.

TWO GRAVES?

YOU ARE NOT LIKE PETER. YOU ARE NOT LIKE BEN. THEY WERE PREY. WEAK.

MY DREAM. THE SOUND OF THUNDER...

YOU ARE A PREDATOR. YOU HAVE JUST PRETENDED OTHERWISE FOR SO LONG THAT YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN.

RRRRRRRRRRRR...

THE SOUND OF THUNDER BECOMES ROARS

BUT THE HUNT WILL REMIND YOU. IT WILL MAKE YOU STRONG AGAIN...

...OR IT WILL KILL YOU.

THE GATHERING

K-K-HHH... KAINE--?

NO, LITTLE ONE. NOT KAINE.

MY NAME IS SERGEI. SERGEI KRAVINOV.

IT IS A PLEASURE TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE, MISS ARACELY.

HOW D'YOU...KNOW M'NAME?

I KNOW BECAUSE I HAVE BEEN WATCHING KAINE FOR SOME TIME NOW. I SAW HIM SAVE YOUR *LIFE*, AND THE LIVES OF *MANY* OTHERS.

DID YOU KNOW HE IS ALSO WHY *I* AM ALIVE AS WELL?

"WHEN I WAS YOUNG--SO LONG AGO--I LOST EVERYTHING. MY WAY OF LIFE...MY *COUNTRY*...*EVERYTHING* THAT HAD DEFINED ME. I SOUGHT MEANING, AND I FINALLY FOUND IT IN THE *HUNT*.

"WITH NO BEAST PROVING MY EQUAL, I NEEDED MORE CHALLENGING PREY. I FOUND THIS CHALLENGE IN *SPIDER-MAN*.

"THE HUNT WENT ON FOR YEARS. IT WAS ALL I COULD HAVE HOPED FOR.

"BUT EVENTUALLY, I WAS VICTORIOUS.

"AND THEN, I WAS *TIRED*.

HERE LIES SPIDER-MAN SLAIN BY THE HUNTER

"I HAD NOTHING LEFT TO CONQUER IN THIS WORLD, AND SO I LEFT IT."

B'HOW... HOW'RE YOU...

ALIVE?

MY FAMILY FELT MY WISHES WERE OPEN TO INTERPRETATION.

"AND THAT IS HOW KAINE BECAME INVOLVED.

"MY WIFE AND CHILDREN HUNTED ALL THOSE CONNECTED TO SPIDER-MAN, TO DRAW HIM IN. HIS BLOOD WAS MEANT TO RESURRECT ME.

"BUT MY FAMILY HAD BEEN FOOLED. IT WAS A SPIDER-MAN THEY HAD CAPTURED, BUT IT WAS NOT HIS PURE SPIRIT THAT PULLED ME BACK TO LIFE, NOT HIS BLOOD.

"IT WAS KAINE'S.

"THE IMPURITIES OF HIS SPIRIT CURSED ME TO THE UN-LIFE. I CAN NEVER REST. I CAN NEVER *DIE*.

"I WOULD HAVE LOST MY MIND, ARACELY, BUT FOR YOUR PROTECTOR. YOU SEE, WHEN HE, TOO, CAME BACK FROM THE DEAD, IT WAS A GIFT..."

HE GAVE ME SOMETHING TRULY WORTHY TO HUNT.

...AND STAY DOWN!

THWIP!

!!AAUGHH!

TALKING TO YOURSELF, KAINE?

YOU SOUND MORE AND MORE LIKE THE *REAL* SPIDER ALL THE TIME!

HAHAHA!

ONCE UPON A TIME, I PROMISED ANA KRAVEN THAT I'D RIP HER TONGUE OUT

TIME TO KEEP THAT PROMISE

I JUST-- I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU'RE DOING ALL THIS. IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE.

IS THIS FOR *REVENGE*? IS IT FOR...

SLISH

NO... NONE OF YOUR MIND GAMES.

YOU BURN THROUGH THE DRUGS QUICKLY. NO MATTER...MY BLADE HAS MORE.

BUT YOU SHOULD KNOW...

IT IS NOT SIMPLY *REVENGE* I WANT, GIRL. IT IS SOMETHING SO MUCH MORE *IMPORTANT*.

NNHH.

WHERE THE HELL DID SHE GO? I *LOST* HER. THIS TEENAGE GIRL. AND ALL I CAN THINK IS THAT SHE'S LOOKING *RIGHT* AT ME

HUNTING ME

HFF. HFF. HFF.

ANA

SHE DID THIS TO THIS GUARD SHE--

TR-- TR--

WHAT? DON'T TRY TO TALK, BUDDY! I'LL WEB UP A BANDAGE OR SOMETHING, BUT YOU--

NO... IT'S...

KNITCH-

WHOOSH

TRAP...

S-SORRY... TRIED...

IT'S *FINE*. DON'T TALK, IT'LL BE...

SORRY--gt

NO PULSE. HE'S GONE

HE TRIED TO WARN ME WITH HIS LAST WORDS, AND I COULDN'T EVEN--

HAHA HAHA!

I THINK MAYBE YOU'RE DOING THIS HERO THING ALL WRONG, KAINE! AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO *SAVE* LIVES?

...START RUNNING.

HAH. FROM WHAT?

RRRGHHHAGH!

SHUDDER

ANIMALS ARE VERY SIMPLE, ARACELY.

THERE ARE PREDATORS, AND PREY. THE STRONG AND THE WEAK. THEIR NATURE CAN SOMETIMES BE MASKED, BUT NEVER *CHANGED*.

EVEN A DOMESTICATED ANIMAL IS BUT ONE MEAL AWAY FROM THEIR TRUE NATURE.

WHEN SURVIVAL IS ON THE LINE, WE MUST ALL BE WHAT WE TRULY ARE.

KAINE IS LIKE THIS. HE WILL PRETEND TO BE THE HERO, THE LOYAL PET, BUT HE IS NOT.

IF PUSHED, THE HUNGER TO *KILL* WILL GROW WITHIN HIM. HE WILL BE WHAT HE TRULY IS...WHAT *I* NEED HIM TO BE.

AND I DO NOT NEED A HERO, ARACELY.

I NEED A *KILLER*.

I AM GOING TO BREAK YOU IN *TWO*, YOU VICIOUS LITTLE--

SUCH *THREATS.*

THR AM

AAAARGH!

SVISH

I'M SURE THEY SCARE ALL THE PEOPLE WHO HAVEN'T ALREADY *KILLED* YOU.

HRR--

BUT I KNOW BETTER. I KNOW YOU ARE JUST A BROKEN LITTLE *MAN*...

WHO WISHES HE WAS SOMEONE *ELSE.*

HAHA HAHA!

KWHUB

HK... TOUCHED...A NERVE?

ENOUGH. I AM *DONE* PLAYING WITH YOU.

YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME WHERE TO FIND *YOUR* FATHER--

SHLIK

RRRRGH!

YOU STABBED ME, YOU LITTLE...

WHAT--

HOUSTON POLICE

WHERE IS HE?!

YOU KNOW WHERE HE IS!

THWACK

WHERE. IS. HE?!

TELL ME!

WHAM!

KRAK!

WHERE?

HAHAHAAAAHAHAHA...

THEY'RE DEAD! THE COP, THE DOCTOR, THE CUTE *BARTENDER*...THEY'RE ALL *DEAD!* AND GUESS WHAT?

YOUR LITTLE *MEXICAN* GIRL IS NEXT!

ARACELY!

NO!

I'M GOING TO END THIS SICK LITTLE TWIST ONCE AND FOR ALL. AND IT'S NOT THE MONSTER IN MY HEAD THAT MAKES THE DECISION...IT'S *ME*.

SHUNK

IT'S MY *OWN* RAGE THAT I'M GOING TO SURRENDER TO.

I'M *TIRED* OF FIGHTING IT

AND JUST AS I'M ABOUT TO KILL HER I CAN ONLY THINK OF BEN REILLY.

WHY DO YOU KEEP *FIGHTING*, REILLY? WHY DO YOU *REFUSE* TO LAY DOWN IN DEFEAT AND DIE?

KAINE, FOR GOD'S SAKE, THERE'S *NO REASON* FOR US TO FIGHT! ANYONE CAN *SEE* THAT YOU'RE IN TERRIBLE PAIN--PLEASE, LET ME *HELP* YOU!

BEN WAS, IN EVERY WAY, A BETTER VERSION OF ME

NO MATTER HOW FAR I HAD FALLEN, HE SAW THE GOOD IN ME.

EVEN WHEN I DIDN'T

I'M A BAD PERSON. I'VE DONE HORRIBLE THINGS. PART OF ME STILL WANTS TO DO HORRIBLE THINGS. BUT I'VE BEEN GIVEN THIS CHANCE.

I HAD A BROTHER...A GOOD MAN...BUT HE DIED. WHY SAVE ME AND NOT HIM? I NEED TO UNDERSTAND.

HRRRAAARRGGHHH!

I THINK I MIGHT FINALLY UNDERSTAND

YOU'RE LYING.

NOBODY'S DEAD.

THIS GAME, THAT COSTUME... YOUR FATHER WANTS SOMETHING FROM ME.

WELL, I'M *NOT* GONNA PLAY.

THWIP!

I'M NOT GOING TO BE PUSHED INTO ANYTHING ANYMORE, LITTLE GIRL.

I'M GOING TO CHOOSE WHAT I AM, NOT *ANYONE* ELSE.

NOW.

TELL.

ME.

WHERE.

KRAVEN.

IS.

THE HUNT

THEY'RE NOT DEAD. THEY CAN'T BE DEAD.

NO...

AND THEN I SEE... MAYBE THEY'D BE BETTER OFF.

AHA! HERE AT LAST. WELCOME, MY FRIEND!

I'M PLEASED TO SEE YOU'VE MADE IT WITH A MINIMUM OF INJURY.

THAT WILL MAKE THINGS SO MUCH *EASIER.*

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

WHAT DO I WANT? I HAD THOUGHT IT WAS *OBVIOUS.* BUT YOU ARE NOT AS SMART AS THE *REAL* SPIDER, HMM?

I WANT YOUR RAGE, KAINE.

WE ARE GOING TO FIGHT, KAINE.

ONE PREDATOR AGAINST ANOTHER.

AND ONE OF US *WILL* DIE.

IF YOU REFUSE ME THIS-- OR IF YOU *DIE*--EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THESE FRIENDS OF YOURS WILL BE KILLED IN THE SLOWEST AND MOST PAINFUL MANNER I CAN DEVISE.

WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?

I WANT TO BE SURE THE STAKES ARE SUFFICIENT. I WANT YOUR *BEST* FIGHT.

I WANT YOU TO KILL ME.

"INTO THE GRAVE, PART 3"

#23

The Houston Zoo.

MY FRIENDS. TWO WORDS I NEVER THOUGHT I'D SAY

ALL I WANTED WAS TO BE LEFT ALONE TO LIVE MY NEW LIFE IN PEACE

UNTIL I GOT TO HOUSTON

OFFICER WALLY LAYTON. LIKE SOME KIND OF DAMN CHEERLEADER, HE WANTED A SUPER HERO FOR HIS TOWN. WE'VE FACED DEATH TOGETHER. NOW HE'S FACING IT BECAUSE OF ME.

NFF...

HE BELIEVED IN ME--

--JUST LIKE HIS HUSBAND, DR. DONALD MELAND. THEY PLEADED FOR ME TO STAY IN HOUSTON. GUILTED ME INTO IT. ACTUALLY

ARACELY? ARACELY, CAN YOU HEAR ME?

I NEVER SHOULD HAVE LISTENED. I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER

ARACELY. I SAVED HER LIFE, ONLY TO HAND DOWN A DEATH SENTENCE ON TO HER

AND ANNABELLE ADAMS. PLEASE, GOD, DON'T LET HER DIE

MY FRIENDS. THEY THINK I'M A HERO

UHN...

KAINE...

HE KNOWS WHAT I REALLY AM. HE CAME TO HOUSTON. TOOK MY FRIENDS CAPTIVE. JUST TO GET ME TO *PROVE* IT.

BUT THIS MAN. *KRAVEN THE HUNTER*. HE KNOWS THE TRUTH.

A KILLER.

WHAT WILL IT BE, *KAINE?* IF YOU WANT YOUR FRIENDS TO LIVE...IF YOU WANT TO LIVE...

...THEN **KILL ME!**

THERE ARE *EASIER* WAYS TO GET DEAD.

I KNOW.

BUT YOU DO NOT YET UNDERSTAND.

WE ARE *BOUND*, YOU AND I.

CRUNCH

IT WAS *YOUR* BLOOD, YOUR *DEATH* THAT RETURNED ME TO LIFE.

IF *YOU* HAD BEEN *STRONGER*, I WOULD STILL BE AT *PEACE*.

I BESTED MY GREATEST OPPONENT, YOUR "BROTHER" SPIDER-MAN. PROVED MYSELF HIS SUPERIOR IN ALL WAYS. I DIED *KNOWING* I WAS BETTER.

MY FAMILY *TOOK* THAT FROM ME.

AND I INTEND TO HAVE IT *BACK*.

KAINE, GET US OUT OF HERE!

I'M WORKING ON IT!

IF YOU WANT SOMEONE TO KILL YOU THIS BADLY--

--ASK YOUR PSYCHO DAUGHTER TO DO IT. SHE'D PROBABLY *ENJOY* IT.

THRUD

WE'RE DONE HERE.

NO!

IT *MUST* BE YOU!

THE RITUAL DEMANDS IT!

AH

I'VE *HUNTED* YOU. I'VE SEEN WHAT YOU'VE BEEN TRYING TO BECOME.

THUD

WHO YOU'RE TRYING TO BECOME.

YOU WILL *NEVER* BE THE HERO THAT BEN REILLY *WAS*, KAINE, OR THAT PETER PARKER IS.

WHUMP

HE'S NOT HOLDING BACK

I'M *FASTER* THAN SPIDER-MAN

BE WHAT THE OTHER SPIDERS COULD NEVER BE, KAINE...BE WHAT YOU ARE--

SWISH

STRONGER TOO

--AND *KILL* ME!

AND KRAVEN IS *STILL* TEARING ME APART

THWIP!

NO ONE SHOULD WANT TO DIE THIS MUCH

THWIP!

TRYING TO *ENSNARE* ME, LITTLE SPIDER? DO YOU THINK PERHAPS THAT, IF CAPTURED, ALL THIS WILL SIMPLY *END?*

NO.

SVITCH

I WILL *NOT* BE DENIED.

AND IN THE END, WE WILL BOTH DO WHAT WE *MUST.*

DAMN, HE'S FAST

FATHER, DO NOT DO THIS! HE DOESN'T *DESERVE* THE HONOR OF FACING YOU AS AN EQUAL.

IF YOU TRULY MUST DIE, LET *ME* BE THE ONE TO--

YOU TRIED, ANA!

SWACK

YOU BURIED A *KNIFE* IN MY HEART AND IT.

DID.

NOTHING!

IT WAS *YOUR BLOOD*, KAINE, WHICH TORE ME FROM THE *ONLY* PEACE I'VE EVER KNOWN.

I AM IN AGONY, A HELL I DO NOT DESERVE, AND ONLY *YOU* CAN DELIVER ME!

THUCK

KILL ME, KAINE.

WHAM

YOU OWE ME THIS MUCH!

SKRR

C'MON, KAINE, TAKE HIM *DOWN!*

NO! KAINE, DON'T DO THIS. YOU DON'T HAVE TO *KILL* ANYMORE!

YOU DO, LITTLE SPIDER. COME AND BE THE *MONSTER* I KNOW YOU TO BE.

KRAVEN... IF YOU'RE IN HELL...

...YOU CAN JUST *STAY* THERE. I TOLD YOUR *DAUGHTER* AND I'LL TELL *YOU*: I'M NOT PLAYING YOUR GAME.

HE STARES AT ME, AND FOR A MOMENT, I THINK THAT MAYBE HE'S FIGURED THAT OUT.

HAHAHAHA!

MAYBE NOT

ALL THIS TIME, I THOUGHT YOU WERE MERELY *PLAYING* HERO. FOR ALL YOUR TALK OF BEING A MONSTER, PART OF YOU *ACTUALLY THINKS* YOU'RE A HERO!

THE INFLUENCE OF YOUR *FRIENDS*, NO DOUBT. ANA...

...KILL ONE OF THEM.

NO!

YOUR MISTAKE WAS THINKING THIS IS A GAME.

THIS IS NO GAME.

KRAK

THIS IS THE HUNT!

ANA... SHE... SHE'S... SHE'S GIGGLING

CAN'T... UNGH GET... UGH... AWAY FROM HIM, HE WON'T LET UP--

KRAK

UNH!

NO. YOU MADE YOUR CHOICE, "HERO."

ANA! ANA! DON'T--!

MY FRIENDS

PEOPLE WHO CARE FOR ME. PEOPLE WHO LOVE ME

PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE IN ME

HOUSTON

WHAT HAVE I BROUGHT TO YOU?

YOU WERE MY FAVORITE.

WAIT--

WHACK

DONALD!

NO... PLEASE GOD, NO...

MELAND?

HE...HE CAN'T DIE NO

MELAND!

AH, AH, AH, LITTLE SPIDER.

THERE WILL BE NO *RESCUES* TONIGHT. NOT NOW.

NOW, THERE WILL ONLY BE *DEATH*.

THWHAM

YOU SHOULD BE COMFORTABLE WITH THAT, NO? YOU KILLED OCTAVIUS.

WHAM

YOU KILLED MY SON.

THUD

YOU HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR SO MUCH DEATH, KAINE. WHY STOP NOW?

SHOULD I KILL ANOTHER ONE, FATHER?

ONE? NO. THAT WON'T BE ENOUGH.

KILL THEM *ALL*.

NO.

NO!

HNNF--

KRAK

THE IMPACT STOPS HIS HEART. HE'S DEAD BEFORE HE HITS THE GROUND.

FATHER...

KRAVEN GOT WHAT HE WANTED.

FATHER!

GOD HELP ME.

KAINE...

TELL ME HOW TO SAVE YOU.

TELL ME WHAT TO DO!

BIND... WOUNDS...

NGH... PACK...PACK... ARGH!

KAINE! STOP!

I'M JUST...I'M TRYING TO...

YOU'RE HURTING HIM!

CUT ME DOWN!

HE'S NOT GOING TO MAKE IT UNLESS I GET HIM TO A HOSPITAL... MAYBE NOT EVEN THEN.

AIIIIAAAAAAAAAAGGGGHHH!

ANA

YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO KILL HIM! YOU AREN'T *WORTHY!*

SLIK

I'LL KILL YOU! I'LL KILL--

SHUNK

--EEIIIAAAAGGHHHHH!

MONSTER. KILLER. I TOLD MYSELF THAT THIS IS WHAT I AM.

DONALD BELIEVED THAT I WAS A HERO THAT I WAS BETTER.

HKK... KK...

I WANT TO BE BETTER.

I WANT TO BE THE MAN HE BELIEVES IN.

AND IF BEING ALIVE IS NEVER-ENDING TORMENT FOR KRAVEN...

...THEN I WANT THAT TOO

WHAM

GAAAAAASP

COUGH---
COUGH---
COUGH...
NO--!

YES.

KRAK

YOU WERE DEAD, KRAVEN. ANY CONNECTION WE HAD? IT'S *DONE*.

AND THAT IS THE LAST DEATH THAT WILL EVER BE ON MY HANDS.

HEH. HEH HA HA.

PTU.

ARE YOU SURE?

MELAND NO

WALLY, YOU CALL THE HOSPITAL AND GET THEM READY, I'LL TAKE HIM--

KAINE...

YOU'VE DONE *ENOUGH.*

BUT I DON'T NEED HIM TO TELL ME THAT

KRAVEN IS GONE

HE GOT EXACTLY WHAT HE WANTED

Park Plaza Hospital.

LATER.

I'LL BE HONEST...I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH SEVERE ABDOMINAL TRAUMA.

Park Plaza Ho

HE LOST A LOT OF BLOOD; THE FIRST SURGERY WAS TOUCH AND GO.

I DON'T KNOW IF HE'LL MAKE IT THROUGH THE NEXT ONE.

THE NEXT FEW HOURS WILL TELL THE TALE, BUT THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS, EVEN IF HE LIVES, DR. MELAND WILL ***NEVER*** FULLY RECOVER FROM THIS.

I'M SORRY.

KAINE... WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

I... I DON'T KNOW.

WALLY LEFT...WE HAVE TO FIND HIM, WE HAVE TO HELP HIM...

"WHERE COULD HE BE?"

Houston Police Department.

TEK TEK TEK TEK TEK TEK TEK TEK TEK TEK TEK TEK TEK

SUPERHUMAN CRIMINAL LAW ENFORCEMENT DATABASE

<SEARCH>

KAIN_

SE

NE—

SEAR

CLICK

SHCLED3213546545435484354368731321246732132136468576432136 5

POLICE

N.Y.C. POLICE
7369432
KAINE

#24

"HANDS COVERED IN BLOOD, PART 1"

"THERE WAS FIRE. A LOT OF FIRE.

"CHAOS AND CARNAGE.

"I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT.

"AND I COULDN'T ESCAPE.

"...I THINK IT WAS *HELL.*

"AND I FIT RIGHT IN."

I THINK I'M GOING TO HELL.

OR MAYBE IT'S COMING TO ME. I DON'T KNOW--

--WHAT DO *YOU* THINK, FATHER?

SIGH.

LOOK, IT SOUNDS AS THOUGH YOU JUST HAD A ***NIGHTMARE***, KAINE. BUT THAT'S NOT A SIN. AFTER ALL, ***NO ONE*** CAN SEE THE FUTURE.

WELL, I KNOW SOMEONE WHO CAN. IT'S ANNOYING.

WHAT?

I, UH...

...NOTHING. IT'S NOT JUST THE DREAM. THERE ARE PEOPLE HERE WHO THINK I'M SOME KIND OF HERO. PEOPLE WHO BELIEVED IN ME.

YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO THESE PEOPLE?

"THEY WERE KIDNAPPED BY A COUPLE OF PSYCHOTIC RUSSIANS.

"ONE OF THEM WAS GUTTED LIKE AN ANIMAL. HE MIGHT DIE BECAUSE OF *ME*. THEY ALL ALMOST DIED."

BECAUSE OF ME.

I MIGHT AS WELL HAVE. IF I WASN'T HERE, THIS WOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED.

YOU CAN'T TAKE THAT BURDEN ON YOURSELF, SON. YOU DIDN'T HURT ANYONE.

WE CAN'T DWELL ON *MAYBES*, SON. THAT'S NO WAY TO LIVE.

JUST CONSIDER THAT ALL OF THIS DOUBT, THESE TROUBLES... PERHAPS YOU'RE BEING *TESTED*.

WELL-- I SHOULDN'T BE TESTED.

I'M NOT A STRONG MAN, FATHER. WHEN PUSH COMES TO SHOVE, I DO THE WRONG THING, EVERY TIME.

IF THAT'S THE CASE, SON, WHY DID YOU COME *HERE* INSTEAD OF JUST RUNNING?

Park Plaza Hospital.
HOUSTON, TEXAS

THEY SAY HE'S DOING BETTER.

BEEP
BEEP
BEEP

YOU MUST HAVE TALKED TO A DIFFERENT DOCTOR THAN I DID.

BECAUSE I HEARD WORDS LIKE "COLOSTOMY BAG" AND "NEVER FULLY RECOVER."

IT'S MY FAULT HE'S LIKE THAT, ANNABELLE. EVEN THE PRIEST SAID SO.

HE SAID THAT?

HE DIDN'T HAVE TO.

DONALD IS HERE BECAUSE OF ME.

HE'S *ALIVE* BECAUSE OF YOU. WE ALL ARE.

WOULD *THAT* HAVE HAPPENED IF I WASN'T THERE?

IT--

ANNABELLE, STOP.

YOU KNOW IT'S TRUE.

...

COME ON. I WANT TO CHECK ON WALLY.

I'LL SEE YOU BACK AT THE HOTEL.

AND WE ARE NOT DONE TALKING ABOUT THIS, BY THE WAY.

WE *ARE!*

AREN'T.

PARK PLAZA

PARK PLAZA

BRRRR-CHK

HELLO?

IT'S ME.

YES. I'VE FOUND HIM.

The Four Seasons Hotel.

"I AM PRETTY SURE THIS IS ILLEGAL, KAINE."

FOUR SEASONS

ADD IT TO THE LIST.

WHUMP

...KAINE, CAN WE HAVE *BAR-B-QUE* TONIGHT?

PSSSHH!

WHAT IS *WRONG* WITH YOU, ARACELY?

WHAT? THIS IS MAKING ME HUNGRY.

WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS AGAIN? THAT COSTUME NEVER DID ANYTHING TO YOU.

IT'S BROUGHT NOTHING BUT *PAIN* AND *FAILURE*. SO GUESS WHAT?

SKRITCH

SCARLET SPIDER NO MORE!

FWOOSH

UM.

IT'S NOT BURNING.

I KNOW!

%$#@ FIREPROOF UNSTABLE MOLECULES!

THUD

IT'S OKAY, COSTUME. HE DIDN'T MEAN IT.

KAINE! WAIT UP!

HELLO, MISTER KAINE! HOW WAS--

DON'T!

--YOUR MORNING...

HI, COURTNEY! CAN YOU CALL THE FIRE DEPARTMENT?

...AND WE DIDN'T DO IT!

KAINE, WAIT FOR ME!

THROW THAT THING *AWAY.*

NO! YOU *NEED* IT! YOU'RE MY CHAMPION, AND THIS IS YOUR *ARMOR!*

ENOUGH WITH THE *CHAMPION* STUFF! I'M *NOBODY'S* CHAMPION, DO YOU UNDERSTAND?!

IF YOU THINK BURNING A COSTUME IS GOING TO MAKE YOU LESS OF A *HERO*, THEN YOU'RE--*NGH.*

YOU OKAY?

SÍ, THERE'S JUST...IT'S LIKE A *BUZZING* IN MY HEAD.

WELL MAYBE YOU SHOULD GO EAT OR, I DON'T KNOW, GO TO THE HOTEL GYM AND GET A *MASSAGE* OR SOMETHING.

IS *ANNABELLE* COMING OVER?

NOT IF SHE KNOWS WHAT'S *GOOD* FOR HER.

SHE SHOULD STAY AS FAR AWAY FROM ME AS--

--POSSIBLE.

ANNABELLE? WHAT--?

NO. NO QUESTIONS.

I KNOW HOW YOU'RE FEELING RIGHT NOW, KAINE. YOU'RE OVERWHELMED BY *GUILT*...BY *GRIEF*...AND YOU DON'T *DESERVE* TO BE. NOT AFTER ALL YOU'VE *DONE*.

YOU DESERVE TO FEEL *BETTER*. AND KAINE...

I CAN MAKE YOU FEEL A *LOT* BETTER.

NO. NO. THIS ISN'T FAIR. I'M AWAKE. I'M AWAKE. STOP. PLEASE...

...STOP?!

DO NOT ENTER NAHUATL.

WHAT?

WHUMP

FOR IN NAHUATL, YOU WILL DIE.

IF YOU DO NOT ENTER, EVERYONE WILL DIE.

WHUMP

WHAT? BUT--

WHUMP

MICTLAN IS COMING.

AI!

WHUMP

MICTLAN CANNOT RISE WITHOUT YOU.

WHUMP

HISSS!

AAAAIEEE!

WHUMP

WHUMP

WHUMP

YOU'RE NOT BROODING AGAIN ALREADY, ARE YOU?

BECAUSE I'M HAPPY TO KEEP DISTRACTING YOU.

ANNABELLE... CAN WE TALK FOR A SECOND?

TALKING IS BORING.

MM.

YOU'RE *EVERYTHING* I'D HOPED YOU'D BE, KAINE. MY CHILDREN ARE GOING TO *LOVE* YOU.

UH... WHAT?

DID YOU SAY--

KAINE!

KAINE! I WAS TRYING NOT TO HEAR YOU HAVE SEX AND THEN I HAD A WAKING DREAM ABOUT A FIRE BIRD AND A SNAKE AND THEN I HEAR A KNOCKING AN--

ARACELY, WHAT ARE YOU--

OH, CRAP.

KAINE, A.K.A. THE SCARLET SPIDER.

YOU ARE WANTED BY S.H.I.E.L.D., THE F.B.I., HOMELAND SECURITY, INTERPOL, AND THE CITY OF NEW YORK ON CHARGES OF MURDER, ASSAULT, THEFT, SUSPECTED ACTS OF SUPER-HUMAN DOMESTIC TERRORISM, AND ESCAPE FROM FEDERAL CUSTODY.

WALLY, I CAN EXPLAIN--

SHUT UP!

YOU'RE UNDER ARREST.

The Hotel Lobby.

HEY, COURTNEY!

ANNABELLE? DID YOU CHANGE CLOTHES? WERE YOU WEARING THAT WHEN I SAW YOU *EARLIER?*

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I JUST GOT HERE.

I'M GOING UPSTAIRS, OKAY?

UM... SURE. OKAY.

MAN, I'M *NEVER* DOING THE OVERNIGHT SHIFT AGAIN...

HOLD THE DOOR!

WHAT FLOOR?

PENTHOUSE. THE PRESIDENTIAL SUITE.

...OKAY.

SO, AH... WHO ARE YOU GOING TO SEE?

KAINE.

MY LOVER.

--DO YOU UNDERSTAND YOUR RIGHTS, KAINE?

WALLY, STOP! KAINE IS OUR FRIEND!

OH YEAH? HE'S OUR *FRIEND?*

ARE YOU GOING TO KEEP LYING TO EVERYBODY, KAINE, OR ARE YOU GOING TO ADMIT IT? YOU'RE A *MURDERER!*

...HE'S RIGHT.

EVERYTHING HE SAID, EVERYTHING KRAVEN SAID... IT'S TRUE.

"I FOUGHT SUPER HEROES...

"...I KILLED PEOPLE.

"FOR *MONEY*...

"...I EVEN KILLED PEOPLE I THOUGHT I *LOVED.*"

DO WHAT YOU NEED TO DO, WALLY.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING? I NEED YOU.

YEAH! WE ALL DO! HE SAVED YOUR *LIFE*, HE SAVED ALL OUR LIVES!

HE DIDN'T SAVE DONALD!

THIS MAN IS A CRIMINAL! A *MURDERER*--AND HE CAN *NOT* GET AWAY WITH THAT! HE HAS TO PAY!

I NEVER WANTED THIS, WALLY.

I DIDN'T WANT ANYONE ELSE TO GET HURT BECAUSE OF ME, ESPECIALLY NOT DONALD. IF I COULD TRADE PLACES WITH DONALD, I WOULD. I SWEAR TO YOU.

I KNOW THIS DOESN'T EVEN BEGIN TO MAKE UP FOR THE PAIN YOU'RE FEELING, BUT...WALLY...

...I SURRENDER.

KAINE, I--I JUST... DONALD IS... I... GOD.

GOD, I DON'T WANT TO *LOSE* HIM...

YOU'RE SCARED, WALLY.

YOU KNOW THIS ISN'T KAINE'S FAULT, YOU--

ARACELY--?

NO!

DON'T USE YOUR CREEPY MIND CONTROL POWERS ON ME, OR I SWEAR TO GOD, I'LL TAKE *YOU* DOWN, TOO.

THIS IS OVER. KAINE IS COMING WITH ME.

THAT IS NOT GOING TO HAPPEN, OFFICER LAYTON. KAINE BELONGS TO ME NOW.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT--

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK

ANNABELLE'S AT THE DOOR.

...WHAT?

NO.

I'LL GET IT!

ARACELY, WAIT A SECOND --I MEAN-- *FREEZE!*

YEAH, DON'T!

HI, ANNABELLE! WE'RE KIND OF IN THE MIDDLE OF SOMETHING AND DID YOU KNOW THERE'S ALREADY ANOTHER *ANNABELLE* IN HERE?

KAINE! DO YOU *KNOW* THIS WOMAN? DID YOU *SLEEP* WITH HER?! CUZ SHE SAYS SHE'S YOUR "LOVER."

ANNABELLE? HOW ARE YOU THERE? WHEN YOU'RE IN--

ZOE?

WALLY?! I'VE BEEN LOOKING EVERYWHERE FOR YOU, WHAT ARE YOU DOING, WHAT--

WHO THE HELL *IS THAT PERSON WHO LOOKS LIKE ME?!*

I SLEPT WITH HIM, TOO, IF YOU'RE WONDERING.

BUT I'M *KEEPING* HIM.

WHAT--

MY CHILDREN ARE WAITING.

--THE HELL?!

KAINE, FRIENDS OF KAINE, I REALLY HATE TO INTERRUPT ALL OF THIS, BUT I CAME HERE FOR A REASON.

ZOE, WHAT ARE YOU *DOING?*

PUT IT *DOWN!* SLOWLY!

I CAN'T DO THAT. I THINK I LOVE YOU, KAINE... BUT YOU *SHOULDN'T* HAVE PUT MY DADDY IN A COMA.

ZOE, *DON'T--!*

KLIK

KRAKOOOM

"HANDS COVERED IN BLOOD, PART 2"

Monterrey, Mexico.

MONTERREY IS...IS...

I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT MONTERREY.

IT'S IN MEXICO.

THEY SAID LOTS OF BUSINESS. LOTS OF AMERICANS.

THE GUY IN THE BAR SAID A LOT MORE.

HE WOULDN'T SHUT UP ABOUT THE DEAL GOING DOWN TONIGHT.

I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND MOST OF IT.

I DIDN'T NEED TO

<SO...DO WE HAVE A DEAL?>

<CHECK IT.>

I'VE BEEN DOWN THIS ROAD BEFORE.

<IT'S GOOD. GOD, IT'S-->

BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA

AALIEE!

TRANSLATED FROM SPANISH

<--THE HELL?>
<THAT WAS MAX. SOMEONE GO CHECK ON HIM.>

AAAAHHH!

<SHOW YOURSELF!!>

HELLO?

HI.

YOU SHOULD RUN NOW.

HA HAHAHA HA!!

HA HAHA HA!!

ARE WE SUPPOSED TO BE AFRAID OF YOU, LITTLE GIRL?

YOU SHOULD BE. I AM.

THE DUFFEL BAG HOLDS A FEW MILLION DOLLARS, EASILY.

WHATEVER THEY WERE SELLING... YOU KNOW WHAT? I DON'T CARE.

SNAG!

THEY WERE SELLING *DRUGS!*

STAY OUT OF MY HEAD.

THIS ONE IS STILL AWAKE. HE'S THINKING ABOUT SHOOTING YOU.

QUIT MESSING AROUND. WE'RE LEAVING.

‹SHOOTING PEOPLE IS BAD! YOU'RE AFRAID OF *GUNS!*›

‹YOU'LL NEVER PICK UP A GUN AGAIN...AND YOU LIKE PUPPIES.›

AAAAAHHH!

‹GET AWAY! GET AWAY FROM ME!!›

ARACELY!

STOP PLAYING WITH HIM!

MY NAME IS KAINE. THE GIRL IS ARACELY.

IT'S *HUMMINGBIRD!* WE HAVE TO USE CODE NAMES! AND DID YOU JUST TAKE OFF YOUR *MASK?!*

DIDN'T YOU LEARN ANYTHING IN HOUSTON?!

I TOLD YOU NEVER TO TALK ABOUT HOUSTON.

IT WASN'T YOUR FAULT!!

SHE'S WRONG

The Four Seasons Hotel.
Houston, Texas.
A WEEK AGO.

EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED IN HOUSTON

IT WAS MY FAULT. IT'S ALL ON MY HEAD

AND I WILL NEVER BE FORGIVEN FOR IT

Mexico. NOW.

WAIT. ARE WE IN CANADA?

YOU'RE HOLDING IT UPSIDE DOWN, MAGELLAN.

THAT DOESN'T MAKE ME WRONG!

ANY MORE DREAMS?

THEY STOPPED THE SECOND WE CROSSED THE BORDER.

THAT'S GOING TO MAKE IT A LOT HARDER TO FIND YOUR PARENTS.

THE COYOTE WILL FIND ME.

HUH.

OOO, LOOK! IT'S A REAL COYOTE! NOT THE SCARY ONES FROM MY--

MICTLAN RISES.

...

YOU'RE GOING THE WRONG WAY!!

I AM NOT!

I AM THE *NAVIGATOR!*

THERE'S NO COYOTE THERE

I NEED A DRINK.

WE'RE SETTING UP CAMP HERE.

TELL ME A STORY, KAINE.

I'M GOING TO KILL YOU.

TELL ME A *DIFFERENT* STORY.

I MISS THE HOTEL.

I MISS MY *BED* AND THE SPA AND THE *POOL* AND ROOM SERVICE AND ANNABELLE--

DON'T.

...I MISS THE LITTLE CUCUMBERS SHE PUT ON MY EYES.

GO TO SLEEP.

WE'RE GOING TO GET KILLED OUT HERE. WHAT IF THERE'S SNAKES?

GO! TO! SLEEP!

...

YOU HAVE TO TALK ABOUT IT SOMETIME.

NO. I DON'T.

I WAKE IN FREEFALL, FIRE AND SCREAMS ALL AROUND ME

ARECELY IS CLOSEST, THEN WALLY

ARECELY AND ANNABELLE, THEY'RE TOO FAR AWAY

THE FEAR ON ANNABELLE'S FACE

FIRE AND DEBRIS, AND DOWN BELOW, A FEW DOZEN PEOPLE THAT WERE WATCHING DEATH COME AT THEM

GOD, PLEASE PLEASE

PLEASE, HELP ME. GIVE ME STRENGTH.

DON'T LET THEM DIE

AAAAHH!

NNNNYAAAAAA!

END OF ME!

AAAH! AAAHHHH!

KAINE!!! LOOK AT ME! I DID THIS BECAUSE I LOVE YOU! I WON'T EVER STOP LOVING YOU!

WHAM!

UHN!

STUFF IT, CRAZY!

WHOA, ANNABELLE JUST PUNCHED--

ARACELY. WE HAVE BIGGER PROBLEMS.

KAINE! LOOK UPON ME!

I AM SHATHRA!

I FOLLOWED YOUR OTHER SELF, THE SPIDER-MAN, TO THIS WORLD TO FEED UPON HIM... BUT YOU WILL DO.

MY CHILDREN, THEY NEED TO FEED.

THEY NEED *YOU.*

HOLY CRAP. IS THAT EVIL ANNABELLE?

YOU NEED TO GO BEAT HER UP.

WE NEED TO GET EVERYONE OUT OF HERE, I'M NOT A *SUPER--*

--HERO.

Mazatlan, Mexico.
NOW.

"KAINE!!

"WAIT UP!!"

THERE WAS A GIFT SHOP BACK THERE!

WE'RE NOT TOURISTS, ARACELY. WE CAME HERE FOR FOOD AND SUPPLIES, NOW WE'RE LEAVING.

WELL, WE NEED MORE FOOD BECAUSE I ATE THE FOOD.

I SHOULD HAVE LEFT YOU IN HOUSTON.

THAT HURTS.

GOOD!

NO...IN THE ALLEY. I CAN FEEL HER... SHE'S HURT...

<PLEASE...JUST... JUST...>

PLEASE DON'T HURT US...

"THEY'RE BEING ROBBED! WE HAVE TO HELP!"

NO, WE DON'T.

THEY'RE IN TROUBLE!

THAT'S NOT MY PROBLEM.

BUT...BUT YOU'RE A HERO!

NOT ANYMORE.

THE SCARLET SPIDER.

HOUSTON'S VERY OWN SUPER HERO.

THEY DIDN'T KNOW THE TRUTH, THOUGH, THAT I WAS A SHADOW OF SPIDER-MAN.

A CLONE. A VILLAIN. A MURDERER. A MONSTER.

I AM THE DANGER

WHATEVER THE HELL THIS THING IS, IT'S HERE FOR ME. PEOPLE ARE IN DANGER BECAUSE OF *ME*. IT'S DONALD ALL OVER AGAIN.

UHN!

SHE'S *FAST*

YESSSS...

AND STRONG

COME TO ME.

UHN!!

SOMETHING'S WRONG. I'M ABOUT TO CRAWL OUT OF MY SKIN. THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT HER...

...I JUST WANT TO *KILL* HER.

SHLIK!

SO I DO

SHUNK!

HKK!

WHAT THE--?

YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE DEALING WITH, DO YOU? YOU WILL.

MY CHILDREN...

FEED.

THIS MONSTER... IT'S NOT HUMAN. IT'S NOT NATURAL. IT'S...

WASPS TEARING ME APART, CAN'T GET AWAY--

GET AWAY FROM HIM!!

BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!

HUUUUUMAN...

JUST BACK AWAY!

ARACELY! GET ANNABELLE OUT OF HERE!

YOU ARE NOT WORTH FEEDING ON.

BUT YOU WILL BE FUN TO KILL.

BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!

WALLY...

NO NO NO

NOT AGAIN. DON'T LET THIS HAPPEN AGAIN

I WON'T LET THIS HAPPEN AGAIN

PREY.

AAAHH!

HSSSS!

KAINE?!

I WATCH IT AS IF I'M OUTSIDE MY BODY

I SEE MYSELF FOR THE MONSTER I AM, TEARING SHATHRA APART

I SEE THE HORROR ON WALLY'S FACE.

ON ANNABELLE'S FACE.

THEY ALL SEE ME FOR WHAT I AM.

PREY.

A MONSTER.

ANNABELLE...

ANNABELLE!

WALLY...

YOU SHOULD JUST...YOU SHOULD JUST GO.

I'LL DEAL WITH THE POLICE, BUT YOU NEED TO LEAVE.

NO!

HE SAVED YOU! HE SAVED THE WHOLE CITY, AGAIN!

ARACELY... STOP.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND... WHY IS THIS BAD?

GRILL

BECAUSE I'M NOT A HERO.

MY NAME IS KAINE.

AND DEATH WAS THE ONLY THING I'D EVER KNOWN.

I AM A MONSTER, BUT ONCE...ONCE I ASKED MYSELF IF THINGS COULD BE DIFFERENT.

IF NOW THAT I WASN'T DYING, I COULD TRULY *LIVE*.

THAT I COULD FIND A HOME. FRIENDS.

LOVE.

I HAVE MY ANSWER.

NOT EVERY STORY HAS A HAPPY ENDING.

NOT EVERY SIN CAN BE REDEEMED.

THIS IS WHO I AM. I'M DONE TRYING TO BE SOMETHING I'M NOT. I'M DONE TRYING TO BE A HERO.

YOU TOTALLY SAVED THOSE TOURISTS.

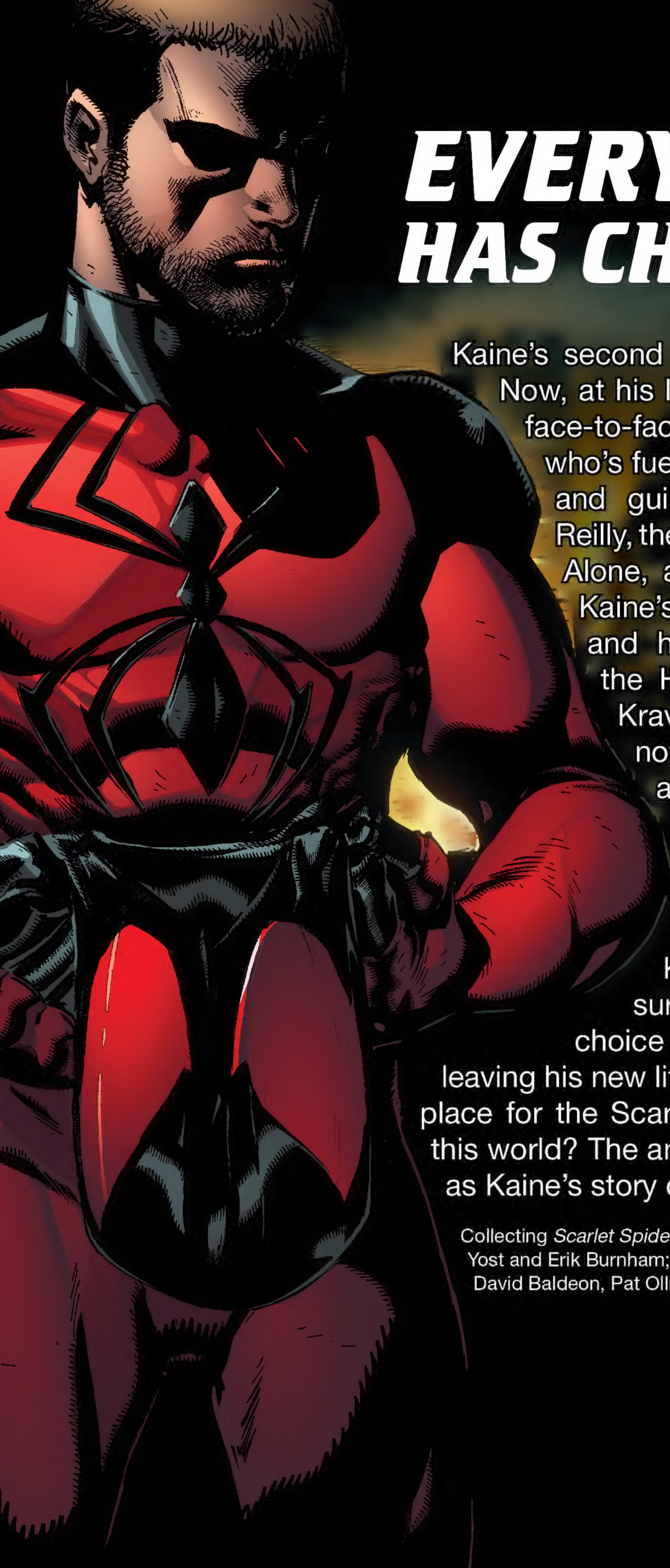
SHUT UP, ARACELY.

...

WHY IS THE WATER RED?

NOT THE END.

SCARLET SPIDER



EVERYTHING HAS CHANGED.

Kaine's second chance at life is over. Now, at his lowest point, he comes face-to-face with the one man who's fueled his obsession, hate and guilt his entire life: Ben Reilly, the original Scarlet Spider! Alone, adrift, beaten and lost, Kaine's body is broken — and his soul is next. Enter the Hunter! But what does Kraven really want? It's not what you might think, and Kaine's supporting cast is about to pay the price of being his friend. Then, after the immense sacrifices Kaine must make to survive, he is faced with a choice — one that may see him leaving his new life forever. But is there a place for the Scarlet Spider anywhere in this world? The answers will surprise you as Kaine's story comes to a close!

Collecting *Scarlet Spider (2012) #21-25* — written by Chris Yost and Erik Burnham; and illustrated by Carlo Barberi, David Baldeon, Pat Olliffe and Tim Green II.

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MARVEL